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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/918,905	07/31/2001	Zazu Ciuca	077056-0348	2325

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James A. Wilke
FOLEY & LARDNER
Firststar Center
777 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202-5367

[REDACTED]
EXAMINER

JOHNSON, BLAIR M

[REDACTED]
ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3634

DATE MAILED: 07/29/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/918,905	Applicant(s) Ciuca
	Examiner Blair M. Johnson	Art Unit 3634

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 8-13 and 21-23 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1, 6, 7, 14-20, and 24-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2-5 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 2
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 14,19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Kuhar '100.

See tensioning element in the form of slots 56, column 4, lines 51-54. The embodiment of Fig. 3 discloses plural means for actuating. On the other hand, "means for actuating" defines no specific structure and reads on any portion of '100.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuhar '100.

It would have been obvious to provide a tensioner for each cord, such being an obvious duplication of equivalent parts. Providing another tensioner would increase the tension control.

5. Claims 1,6,7,15-17 and 24-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuhar '100 in view of Carouso.

'100 discloses everything except the one-way tensioning system. '100 does provide a tensioning system in the form of slots 56, column 4, lines 51-54. Carouso discloses a tensioning member to prevent "creep" of the cords 17 back onto the spools 19,20. The tensioning pulley 25 is a one-way tensioner, as disclosed from page 1, line 99 to page 2, line 13. In view of this teaching by Carouso, it would have been obvious to modify Kuhar whereby his tensioning system is replaced with the more efficient tensioner of Carouso. Other motivation to combine these references as proposed would simply lie in the fact that the Carouso tensioner is an obvious expedient of the tensioner in Kuhar.

Regarding claim 6, it would have been obvious to provide a tensioner for each cord, such being an obvious duplication of equivalent parts. Providing another tensioner would increase the tension control.

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Regarding claims 15-17, see means for supporting, 25,26,27,28, etc., means for engaging 28 and means for tensioning 25. See also first aperture in spool 25, which accommodates pin 26, and second aperture 33.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 8-13 and 21-23 are allowed.
7. Claims 2-5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.



Blair M. Johnson

Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3634

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Tel (703) 308-0526
Fax (703) 305-3597